

Eye of Hong Kong Telegraphy.

N° 3026

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

Banks.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED:
Authorized Capital \$1,000,000
Subscribed Capital \$500,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Court of Directors—

D. Gillies, Esq., 1 Chow Tung Shang, Esq.;
Chan Kit Shan, Esq.; W. Wotton, Esq.;
C. J. Hirst, Esq.; Kwee Ho Choo, Esq.;
G. W. F. PLAYFAIR, Chief Manager;
A. B. MCKEAN, Acting Chief Manager.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN
LONDON—

THOMAS CARMICHAEL, Esq.—Messrs. Deut,
Palmer & Co.
JOHN BUTTERY, Esq.—Messrs. John Butter &
Co.
C. B. STUART-WORTLEY, Esq., M.P., for Hallam,
Esq. MUNRO, Manager.

Bankers—
London: The Alliance Bank (Ltd.)
Scotland: The Commercial Bank of Scotland.

SHANGHAI,
ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Hai Fu Yuen, Esq.; Lim Kwan King, Esq.;
Ma Kit Tchong, Esq.; Chu Mio Shang, Esq.;
Tong Kwei Sung, Esq.

J. D. THORBURN, Manager pro tem.

THE BANK is now prepared to make advances
on goods in neutral Godowns and on
other securities, at rates to be obtained on
application; also to receive Money on Current
Account or Fixed Deposit.

Interest for 12 months Fixed, 5 per cent.

6 " " 4 "

CURRENT ACCOUNTS 3 "

For Rates of Interest for other periods apply
to the Manager.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1891. [1429]

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK
CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL \$2,000,000.
PAID-UP CAPITAL \$500,000

LONDON:
Head Office 46, Threadneedle Street
West End Office 25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT,
Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE,
Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS FOR
COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and
Agency Business generally, on terms to be had
on application.

E. W. RUTTER,
Manager. [10]

Officers of Fitting,
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY
COMPANY.

MR. EDWARD H. LOWAY has been
appointed GENERAL AGENT of this Company
in China and Japan, succeeding Mr.
GEORGE B. DODWELL, who resigned to
devote himself to the affairs of his firm.

Mr. LOWAY has the Company's Power
of Attorney to deal with their business affairs in
China and Japan.

The Company's agencies in India, Australia
and the Straits Settlements will be under his
direct supervision.

His Office will be in Hongkong.

T. G. SHAUGHNESSY,
Vice-President,
Hongkong, 16th December, 1891. [1429]

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO'S
ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE,
CHINA AND JAPAN.

THE Company having decided to establish
their own special Agents in Hongkong
and Shanghai, and to appoint a GENERAL AGENT
who shall devote his services exclusively to their
business, our Mr. GEO. B. DODWELL has
this day resigned his position as General Agent
for China and Japan. It has been arranged that
the Firm will continue to act as the Commercial
Agents of the Company until January 1st
next.

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
Agents.

T. G. SHAUGHNESSY,
Vice-President,
Canadian Pacific Railway,
Hongkong, 16th December, 1891. [1429]

NOTICE

MY Son, HENRY HUMPHREYS, was
admitted into Partnership with me on
the 1st day of July last.

JNO. D. HUMPHREYS.
Hongkong, 12th December, 1891. [1429]

THE Business heretofore carried on under
the name of JNO. D. HUMPHREYS will
henceforth be conducted under the name of
John D. Humphreys & Son.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.
Hongkong, 12th December, 1891. [1429]

NOTICE

TAI ON SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

I, U CHEUK TONG, have this day been
appointed GENERAL MANAGER of the
above Company.

U CHEUK TONG,
General Manager,
Hongkong, 25th November, 1891. [1429]

NOTICE

THE Undersigned has this Day established
himself as AUCTIONEER and GOODS
BROKER.

GEO. P. LAMMERT,

Hongkong, 7th December, 1891. [1429]

Intimations.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.'S CHOICE WINES

A YALA & Co.'s EXTRA-DRY CHAMPAGNE.
ADET SEWARD & Co.'s Choice After-Dinner CLARETS.

BURGUNDIES.

L. C. & Co.'s FINE OLD DESSERT PORTS.

SACCONI'S AMONTILLADO & MANZANILLA.

Dry Royal Sauterne, Haut Sauterne.

RUDESHEIMER,
HOCKHEIMER,
LAUBENHEIMER.

CALIFORNIAN AFTER-DINNER CLARETS AND BURGUNDY.

COURVOISIER'S BRANDIES.

HENNESSY'S BRANDIES.

EXSHAW'S BRANDIES.

VERY OLD LIQUEUR BRANDY, 1848 Vintage.

THE CARLTON CLUB WHISKY (11 years old).

NAPIER JOHNSTONE'S OLD SCOTCH (square bottles).

L. C. & CO.'S TEACHER'S

HIGHLAND CREAM.

DUNVILLE'S & HENRY THOMSON & Co.'s IRISH.

"STONEWALL" CHOCE OLD BOURBON.

"RED HEART" RUM, "PLYMOUTH" GIN (Very Superior), French & Italian VERMOUTH.

GINGER WINE and GINGER BRANDY.

MILK PUNCH, CHERRY CORDIAL.

APRICOT BRANDY, CHARTREUSE, CURACAO, MARASCHINO, "D.O.M.",

ANGOSTURA, BOKER'S, ORANGE, DANVITA, CHIRETTA & BOLIVAR BITTERS.

BASS'S PALE ALE, GUINNESS'S DOUBLE STOUT.

THE JAPAN BREWERY & Co.'s LAGER BEER.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

[1428]

Hongkong, 4th December, 1891.

MOOTRIE, ROBINSON & CO.

(THE PIANO, ORGAN AND MUSIC WAREHOUSE).

PIANOS.

PIANOS.

BY ALL THE LEADING MAKERS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING—

NEW PIANOS, by

BROADWOOD, COLLARD & COLLARD,

CRÄMER, PLEVEL,

HOPKINSON, BRINEMEAD,

RACHALS, ROSENKRANZ,

2nd-HAND.

BROADWOOD (COTTAGES),

SCHIEDMAYER, RACHALS,

YACHT PIANOS (Folding Key-boards).

HOPKINSON, CHAPPEL,

COLLARD & COLLARD, PLEVEL,

STRAUSS, SCHRÖER,

and several others.

PRICES RANGE FROM \$150 TO \$800.

All the above Instruments can be purchased by

MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

BEING by far the largest importers of Musical Instruments in the East, MOOTRIE, ROBINSON & Co. are enabled to offer customers every possible advantage in SELECTION and QUALITY and at

HOME PRICES.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

PIANOS ON HIRE FROM \$8 PER MONTH.

Having just received (at our Hongkong and Shanghai houses) a shipment of over

TWO TONS of Music, containing every possible style and variety, we will from this date to

the 1st December, offer a discount of 20 per cent. on all Sheet Music and Editions—PETERS, LITOLFF, and AUGENER.

VIOLINS, BANJOS, GUITARS, MANDOLINS, ZITHERS, DULCIMERS, ACCORDÉONS,

CONCERTINAS, FLUTES, PICCOLOS, TAMBOURINES, STRINGS, BOWS,

BRIDGES, MUTES, PITCH-PIPS, TAIL-PIECES, PEGS—

In fact, every kind of Instrument and Fittings possible.

Call and Inspect our stock or obtain our Illustrated Catalogue before buying elsewhere.

MOOTRIE, ROBINSON & CO.,

UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL,

HONGKONG,

(And at London, Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama).

The ONLY FIRM in the Far East devoting themselves entirely to the Music Trade.

[1429]

Insurances.

\$1,000 STG. Payable at Age 55, or
at death if previous—may be secured by
a payment of the rate of—

5	7	6	8	14	2	10	15	12	6
10	11	11	11	11	2	11	11	11	6
15	15	15	15	15	2	15	15	15	15

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Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,
LIMITED,
CHEMISTS, &c.
CONFECTIONERY.

CHOCOLATES.

NOUGAT.

PRALINES.

PASTILLES.

&c., &c., &c.

BEST QUALITY OBTAINABLE.

No. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL

LONDON, HONGKONG AND AMOY.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

WE invite attention to our first supplies
of

CONFECTONERY AND
CHRISTMAS GOODS

RECEIVED BY THE LAST MAIL.

JORDAN ALMONDS, NOUGAT, BUT-
TER SCOTCH, ASSORTED TOFFEES,

DRAGEES, PRALINES, and a large selection
of PURE CONFECTONERY from the leading
Manufacturers.

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CHOCOLATE
CREMES.

PINE, APRICOT, CHERRY, LIME,
GUAVA, and other FRUIT JELLIES in great
variety.

TOM SMITH'S CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

COLOURED OPALS mounted in Plush
representing favourite subjects.

A large assortment of ENGLISH and
JAPANESE CHRISTMAS CARDS, of hand-
some and artistic designs, suitable to all tastes,
and at moderate prices.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 1st November, 1891.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1891.

TELEGRAMS.

ONE POUND NOTE ISSUE.

LONDON, December 18th.

The Times urges in favour of deferring the
issue of One Pound Notes till after the election.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.'s ships *Lionet* and *Archer* arrived at
Shanghai on the 16th inst.

Latest news from Japan is to the effect that
violent shocks of earthquake have occurred at
Nagoya, and Hakone.

The General *Welder* was berthed at the
Cosmopolitan and the Canton river boat *Tsao-
tsui* at Aberdeen dock today.

The return of the number of visitors to the City
Hall Museum for the week ended December 20th
are:—European, 151; Chinese, 2,148; total
2,329.

The agents (Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co.)
inform us that the "Ben" Line steamer
Beverence, from London, left Singapore for this
port yesterday.

The editor of the *Wynn Shimp* committed
suicide the other day, owing, it is said, to remorse
at having accepted a subsidy from the Japanese
Government, the *Wynn* being an opposition
paper.

The *Wynn Shimp* reports that Mr. Chu, an expectant
magistrate of Kiangsu and police magistrate of
Nanking, has been convicted of killing a prisoner
by torture, and has now been taken to Szechow
to undergo a final examination before the
Governor.

JAPANESE papers report that three disastrous
typhoons have visited the Bonin Islands, levelling
houses to the ground, causing great damage to
the crops, and seriously injuring many of the
inhabitants. All the junks on the coast, except
four, were entirely lost.

The Board of the A. & S. Highlanders will play
the following programme at the Officers' Mess
tomorrow, commanding at 8 p.m.—

Overture, "Rover and Rider," Suite.

Allegro, "Aldgate," Suite.

Concerto, "The Gondoliers," Suite.

Finale, "The Highlanders," Suite.

The U.S.S. *Alert* arrived here from Canton,
and H.M.S. *Flour* sailed for Swatow on
Saturday.

The resuscitated barque *Cape City* arrived
safely at Shanghai from Yokohama on
Wednesday last.

From the diary of theatrical critic: "Sopped
with Muriel Milligan, who is to play Jupiter in
'Prometheus up to Date!' Menu written on
back of *fig-note*; that's what I call fact!"

A REGULAR meeting of Zealand Lodge, No. 525,
will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zealand Street,
on Monday, the 28th instant, at 8 for 8.30 p.m.
precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

The Nippon Yussen Kaisha steamer *Suruga
Maru*, which broke her propeller-shaft half way
between Japan and China, has safely reached
Yokohama in tow of the *Kamome Maru*.
She will have to lie up, pending the arrival of
a new shaft from Hongkong.

A CELESTIAL named *Yuen Hsiang-fu* has pub-
lished an exceedingly diverting and whimsical
little book in London entitled "Those Foreign
Devils." Its title is merely a "catch" and only
a "catch" for its contents merely give the
reader a view of European civilisation as seen
through Chinese spectacles. It does not "state"
us, and it is not an English edition of the shock-
ing *Han* publications.

The *Shanghai Mercury* learns from the North
that Sheng Taotai and Mr. Ma Kien-tcheung have
been requested by Vice-roy Li Hung-chang to
pay, at once, all claims due to the China
Merchants Company, in addition to claims that
are due to other shipping companies by the
China Merchants, on the amalgamation scheme.
Our contemporary suggests that this no doubt
inconvenient demand has something to do with
Tcheung's reported illness.

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The *Hongkong Mercury* writes under date of the
7th instant:—There are no steamers inside except one of the
"Plugs," I think the *Yungking*. She is up at the
Coat Wharf. The river keeps full of drift
ice right down to this end, but further up it is
closed. The *Heron* is up at the Tientan bend;
the *Ewo* and some lighters at the Nine Forts,
and the *Le-ta* a little further down, all frozen in.
They are all quite safe, but I don't think
they will get to Taku this year.

An English edition of M. Bevalot's travels in
Tibet will be shortly published by Messrs.
Cassell and Company in two volumes. The
work about to be issued will contain a full record
of the severe privations and sufferings the
travellers endured during their eventful journeys
and of which a summary was published in this
journal shortly after the author and his com-
panions arrived in Hongkong last year. The
book will be furnished with a route map, in
colours, and with illustrations from photographs
taken by Prince Henry d'Orleans.

Mr. R. Martin, master of the British bark
Velocity, which arrived here from Honolulu on
Saturday last, appeared at the Police Court this
morning to answer to the charge of having in
his possession on the 19th inst. about \$1,000
taels, with about \$8,000, of prepared opium
without a valid certificate from the Opium
Farmer. The opium was seized on board the
Velocity on Saturday last—after being
accompanied by Mr. J. J. Spooner, Chief Excise
Officer, who laid the information. The case was
remanded till Thursday next, bail being fixed in
and surty of \$500.

A Chinese contemporary the *Hupao* says:—
While a new store in Peking was celebrating its
opening with music and singing, crowds of
beggars infested the place making exorbitant
demands for *cess* and obstructing all egress and
ingress, all chance of doing business being at a
standstill. The proprietor exasperated, but it
was of no avail, at last he rushed out dealing
blows right and left. One wretched specimen of
humanity in rage, being too much weakened by
hunger to get out of the way of the enraged
proprietor, received a blow on his breast, and
was stretched lifeless on the ground. The
store is closed and the proprietor is awaiting trial
for manslaughter.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial
Hospital begs to acknowledge with thanks the
following donations to the funds of the Hospital:—
Koh Cheng Suan \$100
Ho Ping 10
Pawbrokers' Guild 10
Kia Tye Loong 10
Yik Mo 10
How Fung 10
Sui Cheong Eng 10
Ying Hin Fung 10
Kwong Mo 10
Kwong On We 10
Wo Ki 10
Yee Yean Hing 10
Lai Hing 10
Tai Sia 10
Cheong Wo 10
Wong Ni Shang 10
Tok Kit 10
Lum San Ki 10
Yu Yuk Chi 10
Chau Yik Fai Tong 10
Kwong Wing Ch'eng 10
Cheung San 10
Man On Tung 10
Tin Sing 10
Kung Ch'eng 10
Soi Li 10
Yiu San Leung 10

The *Sydney Bulletin* of the 7th ult. has the
following:—For obvious reasons it is the
custom when a prisoner dies in goal to
hold an inquest before a mixed jury, six
freemen and six convicts. At Goulburn, New
South Wales, a few days ago, an inquest
on an old man (75 years) who had died of
bronchitis in his cell (there happened to be
no room in the gaol hospital) the prisoner-hall
on the jury presented to the Coroner a written
objection to the summoning as jurors prisoners
under separate treatment, and at the same time
complained of the manner in which sick
prisoners were dealt with. Prisoners under
separate treatment never see each other and
had absolutely nothing of what passes outside
their own cells. Hence, a jury might just as
well be summoned from a town a hundred miles
away. Again, these separate prisoners, should there
be a dispute or misunderstanding on the part of the
gaol authorities, are likely to side with the latter
in order to avoid their wrath and to obtain
a mitigation in their own favour. These con-
vict-jurors are right in their complaint, but may
pay a severe penalty for their temerity. The
Coroner referred the complainants to the
Visiting Justice for redress. They are likely to
meet with little sympathy. The proper men to
summon on these juries are prisoners whose
term of sentence has nearly expired, and who,
on that ground, need have little fear of the
consequences of any verdict they may give.

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the following programme at the Officers' Mess
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Finale, "The Highlanders," Suite.

The *Kobe Herald* states that as the price of rice
still keeps up, quantities of the grain are being
shipped from China to Osaka.

A FIRE broke out on the top floor of No. 57,
Wanchai Road at about 7 o'clock on Saturday
evening. The police and other fire brigades
were quickly on the spot and succeeded in
getting it under before more than \$700 worth of
property was destroyed. "Joss-piggin" is the
supposed origin of the fire.

The *N. C. Daily News* reports that as the
steamers *Trishuli Maru* and *Bengal* were
prowling up the Shanghai river on the 19th
inst., a collision occurred. The *Trishuli* let
go an anchor when she saw that a collision was
inevitable, but the other anchor caught the
Bengal and smashed two of her plates. The
damage done to the Japanese vessel was
principally confined to her rail.

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The *Kobe Chronicle* gleaned from native sources
the following particulars of a serious and fatal
explosion which recently took place at the scene
of the wreck of the *Carverton*. This vessel
was lost off the Wakayama coast some years
ago, but salvaging operations have been carried on
up to date. It appears that some dynamite
which had been brought in a junk for
the purpose of shattering some part of the
steamship suddenly exploded breaking the junk
to pieces and throwing all the people who
were on board, eight in all, into the water.
Fortunately the unusual noise attracted the
attention of the men engaged on the wreck of the
Carverton some distance off, and the divers at
work there immediately went to the assistance
of the struggling men, who were found when
rescued to be terribly injured. Two men have
succumbed to their wounds, and several of the
survivors have lost legs or arms.

TO-DAY'S SHIPPING RETURNS.

Inward,
Kutubu steamer, from Kutchinotzu,
Nagato " Shanghai,
Tsingtao " Wuhu,
Koohong " Tamsui & Co.,
Ainoshima Batoum,
Emarada Manila,
Glenprin Singapore,
Don Juan Manila,
Asago Nagasaki,
Ancons Yokohama,
G. H. Wappaus Whampoa,
Aggregating 3,063 tons, register.

Outward,
Mefco steamer, for Canton,
Mafri Canton,
Whampoa Nagasaki,
Reverdale Haiphong,
Presto Swatow,
Fooling Swatow, &c.
Hallas Yokohama,
Chow Chow Foo Holloway, &c.
Amictis Amoy,
Cheung Hys Teng New York,
Sachem ship,
Nicoys bank,
Georgetta Nantong,
Aggregating 11,866 tons, register.

Mr. Dennis: I am not aware what he did
(Pressed). Yes, certainly, I do know he
wrote to Webber through a third party. I do not
know that Mr. Dennis made overtures to him to
the effect that he would say "the evidence he
gave was a pack of lies, we would let him off." I
have heard Webber say that in Court. When
Webber and I spoke together, the Inspector of
Police stood back. Don't know his name, but
know his face well. I came out in 1878 for the
Praya Wall. I was a stone mason before. After
two years on the Praya Wall I was put on the
work of building the P. & O. offices, by Mr.
Price. My agreement provided that Mr. Price
could send me to any private firm, and I would
be paid by that firm. I first went home to
England in 1881. I had \$60 a month, Sundays,
holidays and night work double pay—\$7.30 per
day, about \$36 a month; and chair and
lodging allowances. I was right when I said it
came to \$160 a month. I never borrowed any
money from a contractor; but when I was locked
up on the charge of rape a friend of mine bor-
rowed \$1,500 from a contractor to bail me out.
I paid \$1,500 myself, making \$3,000, the amount
of bail. Tsing King, to whom I lent \$1,500,
was a contractor for works under me. I
had a perfect right to lend my own money to
anyone I like. I consider it quite right to do
so. I was foreman of section "B" of the conduit
work, and he was contractor for that. I was not
in any way responsible for the work. I did no
measurements. The debt of \$1,500 has been
transferred—I don't wish to expose a prominent
man in the colony who has accepted the
responsibility—Tsing King still owes me \$900. He
did owe me \$1,000 all the time. Mr.
Webber and Mr. Fraser-Smith asked me to be
security with the N. O. B. C. for the purchase of
the gunboat. I became security, and then had
to borrow the money from the Tsui Kap Bank
to pay the N. O. B. C. the \$6,500. I went to
the Oriental Bank with Webber and arranged it.
Tsing King borrowed it for me from the Tsui Kap.
I endorsed the note to Tsing King. He
re-endorsed it to me to sue on it, and I sued Mr.
Fraser-Smith. I don't know the date when it
was re-transferred. (Question held over for
production of note.) I have heard Goulnour, Mrs.
Goulnour, Webber, and A. Ngan speak about the
child. It is false. I first heard of the charge of
rape eight or ten months afterwards.

His Lordship:—After what?

No answer—question repeated.

Witness:—Er, er—well—after it was supposed
to have occurred.... You see, eight or ten months
after the date she names as the date of the
offence, she sold the girl, and I had a row with
her about it, and then she said I had attempted
to outrage the child.

Defendant:—In the criminal prosecution you
were asked "Do you wish the jury to believe that
the woman Ngan made up entirely a concoction
about the child?"

Plaintiff:—Yes, and I still believe so.

Defendant:—Listen to your answer then—"I
believe it was the invention of Mr. Fraser-
Smith." Which do you mean—that she originated
it, or I?

Plaintiff:—I believe you are at the bottom of
the whole thing. I believe you were the origin-
ate of the whole thing. I know your little
game. If you could have got me to have cleared
out of the colony, you would have been free of
the debts you owed me.

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the Empire) will be even further developed, and by which England will maintain her proud position as the first commercial Power of the world (hear, hear). Bearing all these things in mind, gentlemen, you should strain every nerve to improve the status of your great profession; improve its personnel; safeguard its interests; maintain the dignity of your position as officers and gentlemen; and show to the world that you are fully alive to the danger of disunion. Strive by every means in your power to bring about necessary reforms. "I will in the future, as you have in the past, that British sailors are ever ready and willing to do their duty. Stick to your guns, and you'll win in the end (loud applause). Never forget that "it is strength" and that you are members of what should ever be a highly respected, honourable, and most important profession (renewed applause amidst which the speaker renewed his sea).

Mr. H. Batherst, the Treasurer, then laid the balance sheet of the accounts for the past half year on the table. The accounts showing a fair credit balance were passed; the Treasurer receiving a hearty vote of thanks, and congratulations upon the success which had attended his labours in the interests of the society.

The election of the Committee for the ensuing year, and a vote of thanks to the President for his services, carried by acclamation, brought the proceedings to a close.

PARSEES IN THE EAST.

THEY ARE THE OLDEST RACE IN THE WORLD.

Followers of Zaraster.

The East is full of Parsees. On every steamer, at the hotels and inns, on the promenade or drive, is seen there swarthy chieftain of Bombay, Sindar, Soot and Sogar, as they appear everywhere. Their principal profession is in buying copra from the Malabar and selling yarn to the Malabar. They trade wholesale, and retail opium to every man of his poisonous pipe. They lend money at every rate of interest, from a few cash to the hard-up bankrupt to acids of rupees in banks and great ad. & gongs. They are the Lombards of the East. Every ruler knows them and is glad to see them in a strange land, for their presence means order, business methods and a more or less "recent" police system. But how many realize, in meeting a Parsee, that they are in the presence of the oldest race, the oldest language, the oldest religion and the oldest civilization known to man?

The name Parsee is but a corruption of the name of their land Persia. This they call Iran, and themselves Irans or Irani. Where they came from no one knows, although learned philologists have quarreled over the question for ages. Long before the wolf-susculed twins had built the walls of Rome or the Aryans warred and invaded India they had some sort of a civilization in Western Asia. We can learn but little of its features. It had a code of laws, amies, priests, social distinctions and a primitive and probably polytheistic faith. This was at least six thousand years ago, and possibly sixteen thousand. It was before the time of Abraham, and long before Noah went to sea. They are truly the "old timers" out here, but they do not regard the newcomer with that condescending scorn expressed and often illustrated in the grub-stake squatters of our Western Territories when a recent arrival termed "tenderfoot" effects a location; but, on the contrary, the Parsee of the East is affable and amiable, punctiliously polite, cordial and courteous in manner and speech, and, above all, what is most refreshing in this quarter of the globe, he possesses that very attractive quality that is likened unto godliness—he is a model of cleanliness.

The Parsee is a man aside in the United States. The last census doesn't report more than a hundred. Possibly General Porter and Major Grant may increase this number. I was never able to learn from books how large their total numbers were in the world. One authority makes them 100,000 strong, another, equally learned, multiplies this by three. The most satisfactory information I have obtained on the subject came from a merchant of their race in Singapore. "Our rules of living," he said, "tend to restrict the size of the family to a point at which our numbers remain stationary. The increased size of physicians has undoubtedly lowered the death rate and so apparently increased our ranks within the past twenty years, but I question if the difference is more than three percent. We are clean, and keep a sharp eye upon all our members. In most countries religious toleration is the rule, and then we know the numbers of our race. But in many Mohammedan lands, (Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan and Turkey) where the spirit of fanaticism prevails, most of us are obliged to pretend to be followers of Islam. According to our best knowledge we number about 350,000, of which 110,000 are in Hindostan, and the rest are scattered all over the world. We regard the city and provinces of Bombay as our home, and try to accumulate enough wealth to go there and live comfortably in our old age. There is a prophecy among us that is half forgotten, which says that in the fullness of time we shall go back and occupy our cap't lndia (Iran) and again be one of the great nations of the earth."

A wonderful characteristic of the Parsee is their physical unchangeability. Those you see to-day might have been the models from which artists made their designs for the Egyptian temples or the palaces and libraries of Nineveh and Babylon. And though a few years have not produced a perceptible alteration in their appearance, their features are as smooth to-day as those of the time of Cyrus. This can not be said of any other race. The Hebrews, the most wonderful people in the world, have displayed much more individuality, and have changed in complexion to conform to the climate in which they lived. Those in Aden are almost black, and in Mozambique black as Otranto. In Germany they have brown hair and pale, gray or emerald eyes, while in Finland, Scandinavia and the Baltic provinces, they become blondes with golden or ruddy hair, and develop a complexion worthy of the goddess of Norse mythology. From this type the medieval masters to the Madonna, whose fame will never die. The blonde Irani is probably darker at the time of Christ, but the swarthy, blue-black-haired Parsee as we see in Hongkong, China and Japan, filled the fierce armies with which Xerxes tried to conquer Greece in the dawn of European history. They were not highly advanced morally. They practiced polygamy and indulged in concubinage, and their religious ceremonies sacrificed human beings upon the altars of several deities. In fact, from the ancient race it is supposed to have come the famous worship of Moloch, with its hideous cruelty, and of Ashtaroth, with its fearfully lascivious orgies.

This old faith seems to have grown weak and to have lost its hold upon the people. It lingered, however, until the time of Zarathustra, Zerdush of Zoroaster, as he is variously called. Visiting Bresters are cordially invited. Hongkong, 21st December, 1891. 1534

Hotels.

THE SHAMAN HOTEL.

BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.

THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes' walk of the River Steamer Wharf, is now open to receive visitors.

The bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally, will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.

The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in expert hands.

When Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc. of the best quality only.

A WELL-APPOINTED BILLIARD-ROOM.

Master, J. A. P. DO ROZARIO,

Manager.

Hongkong, 15th September, 1891. 1535

I have seen Parsees devoutly reading

their Zendavesta on the steamers, at hotels and in public gardens with the same apparent pleasure that a hungry tourist does a tiffin bill of fare. Whether regarded from a scientific, religious or philosophical standpoint, it is a very remarkable book. Its tone is similar to the belief of the average Christian. It teaches the existence of a greater power for good (Ormus or Ahura Mahr) and another for evil (Ahriman or Harnimans); that life is a long struggle between right and wrong; that virtue is rewarded and vice punished in this world and the next, and that the sun, fire or heat is the origin of all physical life, as God is the origin of all spiritual existence. It tells the story of Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden, the temptation by the serpent, the deluge and, in fact, nearly all the stories that appear in the first part of Genesis. The resemblance is more than accidental. It has convinced many of the leading Biblical scholars of the present generation that Genesis is merely a retelling of the Zendavesta and in character and origin is more Iranic than Hebrew.

The Zendavesta is as sacred to-day as it was when first proclaimed by Zaraster. The Parsee reads it as the Puritan reads the New Testament. He employs it in the sacraments of life, swears upon it to take a solemn oath, and even goes so far as to ornament the walls of his room with lines from its more poetic passages. In truth, it is the Parsee's constant companion.

The language in which the book is written, Zend, bears the same relation to Sinctur as the latter does to Greek and Latin. It is simpler, stronger, and more sonorous. It is nearer that state in which our speech was transparent, and each root and syllable had its force and value. To hear a Parsee reading prayers is to hear a chant marvellously melodic, smooth and delightful. In fifty or sixty years it has changed but little. Zaraster was said to be at home to-day in the palace of a Parsee merchant prince, and could a young boy in a sailor's cap be transported back to the days of Xerxes and Darius he would find no difficulty in fitting in the author's full supply of shoddy and humbug.

Is there a schoolboy who does not know the golden age of Persian history? It's mighty wars with Akkod, Assyria, Babylon, and Egypt? Its countless armies, which conquer'd Asia, but were foiled and vanquished by the Greek heroes? Its subjugation by Alexander the Great; its becoming a vassal province to one General after another; its absorption by Rome; its fruitless attempts for independence, and its final obliteration by the ferocious followers of Islam? This last chapter has never been written, but it was the same as that of Granada after Ferdinand the Catholic had driven Boabdil across the sea to Africa. "Worship our god or die!" was the cry in Spain and in Persia likewise.

It is said that there were 50,000 Persians at the beginning of the century; 3,000,000 fell by the sword, 2,000,000 journeyed the faith of their fathers, and a miserable remnant managed to fly through Afghanistan into India, where they were welcomed and protected by the native princes. But this chosen few preserved their faith intact, and their offspring preserve it to-day. Not far from my Consulate is the residence of a wealthy Parsee. Many a morning at sunrise I have seen him spread his prayer-robe upon the roof, and as the first light of the dawning day appeared fall upon his knees and pray as did his ancestors five thousand years ago—Hon. Edward Beddoe in *Philadelphia Times*.

CO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR SINGAPORE, HAVRE, LONDON, HAMBURG AND ANTWERP.

THE Steamship.

"GLAMORGANSHIRE."

Captain Davies, will be despatched as above TO-MORROW, the 22nd December, at 4 P.M., instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUDWELL CARLILL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1891. 1505

DOUGLAS STEAM-SHIP COMPANY, LTD.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAIWANFOO.

THE Company's Steamship.

"THALES."

Captain Hunter, will be despatched for the above Ports, on THURSDAY, the 24th instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRACK & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1891. 1536

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND ADELAIDE.

(Calling at PORT DARWIN and QUEENSLAND PORTS and taking through cargo to NEW ZEALAND, TASMANIA, &c.)

THE Steamship.

"AERLIE."

Captain Ellis, will be despatched for the above Ports, on TUESDAY, the 9th January, 1892, at 4 p.m.

This well-known steamer is specially fitted for passengers, and has large cooling Chambers, thus ensuring a supply of Fresh Meat, Milk, Ice, etc. throughout the voyage.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1891. 1535

ZETLAND LODGE.

No. 525.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above

Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zetland Street, on MONDAY, the 28th December, at 8 for 8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 21st December, 1891. 1534

JAUNAYS CHAMPAGNES, SAZERAC BRANDIES, &c., &c.

WINE CASES.

POCKET BOOKS.

WRITING CASES.

READING CASES.

SHAVING MIRRORS.

CIGAR CABINETS.

TOBACCO BOXES.

MEERSCHAUM PIPES.

CIGAR and CIGARETTE HOLDERS and

CASES.

BOOKS.

WRITING CASES.

READING LAMPS.

DATA CASES.

LETTER SCALES.

LIQUEUR STANDS.

CLOCKS, BAROMETERS,

PHOTO. FRAMES.

JEWELLERY CASES.

WALL MIRRORS.

BACHELORS' TEA & COFFEE SETS, &c.

NOVELTIES in Pottery, China & Glass.

NOVELTIES in Games, Fancy Articles.

Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank—166 percent premium, buyers.

The National Bank of China, Ltd.—on £10 paid up—50 per cent. due, sales and buyers.

The National Bank of China, Ltd.—Founders' shares, 2400 per share, sellers.

The Bank of China, Japan, & the Straits, Ltd.—151 per cent. due, sales and sellers.

The Bank of China, Japan & the Straits, Ltd.—Founders' shares, 2150 per share, sellers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 £—21 per cent. premium, sellers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 £—2 per cent. premium, buyers.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 £—14 per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$90 per share, buyers.

China Traders' Insurance Company—\$61 per share, sales and buyers.

North China Insurance—Tls. 2570 per share, buyers.

Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$107 per share, buyers.

Yangtze Insurance Association—\$102, buyers.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$321 per share, sellers.

China Fire Insurance Company—\$60 per share, sales and sellers.

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$34 per share, sellers.

China and Manilla Steam Ship Company—45 per share, sellers.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—25 per cent. discount, sellers.

Douglas Steamship Company—\$37 per share, sales and buyers.

The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$80 per cent. premium, buyers.

Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—\$15 per share, sales and buyers.

Hongkong Hotel Company—\$50 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$50.

The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$8 per share, sales and buyers.

The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—nominal.

The Shamen Hotel Co., Limited—\$10, sellers.

Funjom and Sungiale Dua Samanian Mining Co.—\$2 per share, buyers.

The Ruth Gold Mining Co., Limited—50 cents per share, sales and sellers.

Imuris Mining Co., Limited—\$91 per share, sales and sellers.

The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, nominal.

Tonquin Coal Mining Co.—\$270 per share, buyers.

The Jelbun Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$4 per share, buyers.

The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—40 cents per share, sellers.

London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Ltd.—\$10, sellers.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$175 per share, sellers.

Luxon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$52 per share, buyers.

A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$19 per share, buyers.

Crookshank & Co., Limited—nominal.

Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sales and sellers.

The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$74 per share, sales and sellers.

The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$23 per share, buyers.

The Lubuk Planting Co., Limited—nominal.

The China-Forrester Co., Limited—nominal.

H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$40 per share, sellers.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$61 per share, sellers.

Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company—\$112 per share, buyers.

Hongkong Gas Company—\$120 per share, nominal.

Hongkong Ice Company—\$80 per share, sellers.

Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share.

The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$10 per share, nominal.

The Green Island Cement Co.—\$14 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$5 per share, sellers.

The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.

The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, sales and sellers.

ARRIVALS.

BENGLOE, British steamer, 1,158, Farquhar, 10th Dec.—London, and Singapore 11th Dec., General—Gibb, Livingston & Co.

KWILUNG, British steamer, 1,082, A. V. Smith, 20th Dec.—Kuching 11th Dec., Coal—Butterfield & Swire.

NOMORI, German steamer, 762, R. Käbler, 20th Dec.—Shanghai 17th December, and Swatow 19th, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

TAIWANG, British steamer, 1,505, H. W. Horne, 20th Dec.—Shanghai 17th December, and Swatow 19th, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

FOOKSANG, British steamer, 691, Spencer Wilde, 20th Dec.—Wuhu 17th Dec., Rice—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

HALLONG, British steamer, 713, J. Rosch, 20th Dec.—Tamsui 17th Dec., Amoy 18th, and Swatow 19th, General—D. Lapak & Co.

AINDALE, British steamer, 1,417, J. H. Horn, 20th Dec.—Batoum 17th Dec., Kerosene Oil—Order.

EMERALDA, British steamer, 666, G. A. Taylor, 20th Dec.—Manila 17th Dec., General—Shewan & Co.

GLENFRITH, British steamer, 1,822, E. Norman, 20th Dec.—Singapore 16th Dec., General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

G. H. WATKINS, British steamer, 533, Hanssen, 20th Dec.—Whampoa 16th Dec., General—Chinese.

ARRIVALS AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.

Hsia-yu, Chinese steamer, for Shanghai.

Haliphong, French steamer, for Haiphong.

Halilong, British steamer, for Swatow.

DEPARTURES.

December 19, Plover, British gunboat, for Swatow.

December 19, Phra Chom Kao, British sloop, for Singapore.

December 20, Mijo, Chinese sloop, for Canton.

December 20, Maris, German sloop, for Canton.

December 20, Sachem, American ship, for New York.

December 20, Nivaya, British bark, for Bangkok.

December 20, Georgiana, American bark, for Manilao.

December 20, Whampoa, British steamer, for Saigon.

December 20, Rurysdale, British steamer, for Nagasaki.

December 20, Potosi, German steamer, for Haiphong.

December 20, Faotang, British steamer, for Swatow.

December 20, Hallam, British steamer, for Swatow.

December 20, Chou-chow-foo, German sloop, for Whampoa.

December 20, Amalita, Norwegian steamer, for Holloway, etc.

December 20, Ching Ho Tong, British sloop, for Amoy.

December 20, Gingko, British steamer, for Singapore, etc.

December 21, Yiheng, British sloop, for Amoy.

December 21, Yiheng, British sloop, for Amoy, on the 24th or 25th.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The 'Shire' line steamer Patkan left Singapore on the 14th instant, and is due here to-day.

The D. R. steamer Lyddie left Singapore on the 13th instant, and may be expected here to-day.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer Ancons left Nagasaki on the 17th instant at 5 p.m., and is due here to-day.

The 'Glen' line steamer Wensig, from London and Batoum, left Singapore on the 16th instant at 6 p.m., and is due here on the 23rd.

The 'Shire' line steamer Torrington left Singapore on the 14th instant, and is due here on the 24th or 25th.

The 'Bee' line steamer Boreas left Singapore on the 16th instant, and is due here on the 26th.

The Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer Nestor left Singapore on the morning of the 16th instant, and is expected here on the 26th.

The N. G. Italian steamer Bormida left Singapore on the 20th instant, and is due here on the 27th.

The Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer Tresor left Singapore on the 20th instant, and is due here on the 27th.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer Canton left Bombay on the 11th instant, and is due here on the 28th.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVED.

Per Boreas, sloop, from London, &c., 1 European and 100 Chinese.

Per Nipho, sloop, from Shanghai—Miss

Tubill, Mr. Kingsley, and 12 Chinese.

Per Taisong, sloop, from Shanghai—Messrs.

Edwards Williams, and 147 Chinese.

Per Halong, sloop, from Tamshu, &c.—Dr. and

Mrs. Blackburn, Captain Farrow, and 14 Chinese.

Per Ancons, sloop, from Yokohama for Hong-

kong—Messrs. Sheas, Lawson, Kidd, Dallalge,

P. Casgrain, All Cunig, and 6 Chinese. From

Kobe—Mrs. Nurra, Messrs. Kopadi, Wan

Cheong, 2 Japanese and 3 Chinese.

Per Hsia-yu, 2 Chinese and 3 Chinese.

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